

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 WELLIN 03079 200211Z

64

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07

ACDA-05 IO-10 ERDA-05 (ISO) W

----- 051837

R 172030Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 341

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

CINCPAC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE WELLINGTON 3079

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT NZ

SUBJ: NEW ZEALAND ELECTIONS

REF: WELLINGTON 3015

1. SUMMARY. MAJOR ELECTION NEWS DURING WEEK WAS PUBLICATION OF SEPTEMBER POLL WHICH GIVES NATIONAL 52-39 PERCENT LEAD OVER LABOUR. POLL INDICATES ECONOMIC ISSUES REMAIN OVERRIDING CONCERN OF PUBLIC. IN DISCUSSIONS WITH AMBASSADOR, OPPOSITION LEADER MULDOON EXPRESSED A HIGH DEGREE OF CONFIDENCE FOLLOWING SPEECH TO 6,000 IN AUCKLAND. END SUMMARY.

2. QUARTERLY "NEW ZEALAND HERALD" POLL PUBLISHED DURING WEEK GAVE NATIONAL PARTY 52-39 PERCENT LEAD OVER LABOUR -- AN INCREASE OF TWO PERCENT OVER JULY POLL. EIGHTEEN PERCENT WERE UNDECIDED. SHOWING FOR LABOUR IS LOWEST IN SIX YEARS. WITHOUT TRYING TO DRAW CONCLUSIONS, "HERALD" MAKES POINT THAT IN 1969 AND 1972 ELECTIONS, OPPOSITION PARTIES AT THAT TIME DID

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 WELLIN 03079 200211Z

BETTER IN ELECTIONS THAN SEPTEMBER POLLS INDICATED.

3. WHILE HIS PARTY WAS INCREASING ITS POPULARITY, OPPOSITION LEADER MULDOON SAW HIS PERSONAL SUPPORT AS MOST IMPRESSIVE OPPOSITION POLITICIAN DROP FROM 45 59 40 PERCENT. AT SAME TIME, ROWLING'S POPULARITY ROSE FROM 36 TO 42 PERCENT. RESULTS OF POLL TAKEN FOR "TV ONE" SHOW SIMILAR DICHOTOMY WITH NATIONAL PARTY THOUGHT BEST ABLE TO GOVERN COUNTRY WHILE ROWLING OUT-POLLS MULDOON AS PREFERRED INDIVIDUAL TO BE PRIME MINISTER.

4. THE ECONOMY, INFLATION AND OVERSEAS TRADE WERE NAMED AS MAJOR CONCERNS BY 69 PERCENT OF THOSE POLLED. WHILE KEEPING WITH LONG-TERM FINDINGS OF QUARTERLY POLL, THIS REPRESENTS A CONSIDERABLE CHANGE FROM JULY FIGURES WHEN THESE ISSUES EXERCISED LESS THAN HALF OF THE SAMPLE. NUCLEAR TESTING WAS A CONCERN OF 0.1 PERCENT OF 2,000 NEW ZEALANDERS QUESTIONED BY POLLSTERS. INTERESTINGLY, DEFENSE, INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, NUCLEAR FREE ZONE AND NUCLEAR POWERED WARSHIP VISITS ARE NOT REPORTED AT ALL AS PUBLIC CONCERNS.

5. WEEK SAW NATIONAL PARTY ISSUE RATHER VAGUE POLICY STATEMENTS ON HEALTH AND EDUCATION. THESE WERE RECEIVED WITH NO APPARENT ENTHUSIASM. CERTAIN AMOUNT OF SKEPTICISM GREETED LABOUR'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF PENSION PLAN PROPOSAL THAT WOULD ENSURE RETIREES AN INCOME EQUAL TO 90 PERCENT OF AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE. VALUES PARTY ISSUED ITS MANIFESTO OCTOBER 14. EMPHASIS IS ON ZERO POPULATION GROWTH AND NEED TO REVISE PRIORITIES AWAY FROM CONSUMPTION-ORIENTED ECONOMY.

6. AMBASSADOR TALKED WITH ROB MULDOON DURING RECEPTION FOR VISITING MALAYSIAN PM RAZAK. MULDOON EXUDED CONFIDENCE, SAYING HIS OCTOBER 11 SPEECH IN AUCKLAND DREW LARGEST CROWD (6,000) IN HISTORY OF NEW ZEALAND POLITICS.
SELDEN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION CAMPAIGNS, POLITICAL PARTIES, PUBLIC OPINION POLLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975WELLIN03079
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750363-0706
From: WELLINGTON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751045/aaaabnwd.tel
Line Count: 99
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 WELLINGTON 3015
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <12 NOV 2003 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEW ZEALAND ELECTIONS
TAGS: PINT, NZ
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006